

## **Louisville Robley Rex VAMC**

### **Doctoral Psychology Internship Program**



Welcome to the Robley Rex VAMC Psychology Internship Program! Internship training occurs at the VAMC and at four Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC). The CBOCs participating in the internship include Stonybrook, Shively, New Albany and Fort Knox. Each location provides an array of outpatient medical and mental health services. The program is organized into a general mental health clinic placement, major rotations and minor rotations. The general mental health clinic placement is a year-long experience where the intern provides general outpatient mental health care one day per week. Major rotations are two six-month placements, two days per week. Minor rotations are two six-month placements, one day per week. Established clinical rotations are listed below and are discussed in detail starting on page 3:

- ☐ Team-Based Outpatient Mental Health (\*required full year placement one day/week)
- ☐ Compensation & Pension
- ☐ Geriatric & Extended Care (GEC) Service
- ☐ Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (HPDP)
- ☐ Neuropsychology Clinic
- ☐ Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)
- ☐ Psychological Assessment Clinic
- ☐ The Posttraumatic Clinical Team (PCT)
- ☐ PTSD/Substance Use Disorder (Dual Diagnosis)
- ☐ Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program

**Application Process:** Our application deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>. All interviews of applicants will be conducted by video conference. The decision to conduct all interviews via video is intentional in our part, as we want to reduce barriers in the selection process that disadvantage applicants who reside far away or lack the financial means to travel for on-site interviews. Our **Match Number is 234711**. Our internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at our training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant. Per VA policy, only US citizens who are completing APA- or CPA-accredited are eligible for appointment for VA Psychology Doctoral Internships.

**Accreditation:** The doctoral internship at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). APA accreditation was granted July 27, 2017. Questions related to the program's accreditation status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation (CoA).

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

American Psychological Association  
750 1st Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 336-5979 / Email: [apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org)

Web: [www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation)

**Pay & Benefits:** The current annual intern salary is \$26,297 which is set by VA Central Office. VA interns are eligible for health insurance and for life insurance. You are entitled to 13 days of annual (vacation) leave per year and up to 13 days of sick leave.

**Contact Information:** For a more detailed description of training opportunities please contact the Training Directors, Shay Kirkpatrick, Psy.D. or Sofia Marsano, Ph.D.

Phone: (502) 287-4926 / Email: [shay.kirkpatrick@va.gov](mailto:shay.kirkpatrick@va.gov);

Phone: (502) 287-6336 / Email: [norma.marsano-jozefowicz@va.gov](mailto:norma.marsano-jozefowicz@va.gov)

### **The Louisville Area**

Louisville is the largest city in the state of Kentucky, with a population of more than 1.25 million in the metro area. Located in the northern central part of the state on the Ohio River and immediately south of Indiana, there are constant arguments about whether Louisville is the northernmost Southern city or the southernmost Midwestern city. One thing for certain is that Louisville has a wonderful mix of cosmopolitan style and laid-back charm. This very affordable city nurtures thriving music, theater, and arts scenes and is one of the few cities of its size with a resident orchestra, ballet, and opera. Louisville is also diverse in its people. It contains the largest African-American community in the state and has a growing population of immigrants from Mexico, India, Cuba, China, Guatemala, Vietnam, Somalia, and Syria. The diversity in the city's population is reflected in its restaurant scene, which is vibrant and considered one of the best in the region. There is also a variety of houses of worship in Louisville, including numerous churches to serve its large Catholic population, a variety of Protestant congregations, a handful of Jewish synagogues, several mosques, two Buddhist temples, and one Hindu temple. Louisville has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest rate of people who identify as LGBT among US metropolitan areas and is one of a handful of KY cities that has adopted a fairness ordinance, which protects LGBT and other people from discrimination. Sports are also big in Louisville, where families often divide their allegiances between the Kentucky Wildcats and Louisville Cardinals. If you don't share the locals' enthusiasm for college basketball and football, then head to Slugger Field, where you can watch the triple-A Louisville Bats play baseball and the Louisville City FC (USL) play soccer. Louisville also hosts a variety of fun events year-round, including the Humana Festival of New American Plays, Kentucky Derby festivities like fireworks and parades, Shakespeare in the park in the summer, the massive St James Court art fair, and much more.

### **Training Model and Philosophy:**

This is a full-time, 2000 hour predoctoral psychology internship that begins the first week in August. Our independent training program focuses on breadth of clinical skills, while highlighting comprehensive mental health care. This includes a focus on knowledge and consideration of research guiding clinical practice (practitioner-scholar model). Emphasis is placed on utilization of empirically supported treatments.

### **Emphasis on Multiculturally Responsive Training and Practice**

At the Robley Rex VAMC, we strive to ensure that all students in our internship program leave as culturally-competent practitioners of psychology. At the beginning of the internship year, interns participate in a 4-hour seminar where they are encouraged to explore their own culturally-informed personal values and biases and consider how these aspects of their identity influence their understanding of what is normal versus pathological behavior, their interactions with clients, their clients' perception of them, and other aspects of the client-

practitioner relationship. Over the course of the training year, interns also receive didactics on topics such as military and Veteran culture, special issues in working with LGBTQ+ Veterans, historical and cultural perspectives on trauma, addressing racism and other forms of prejudice in therapy, handling inappropriate sexual behaviors in the clinical setting; addressing poverty in mental health treatment, spirituality and mental health, and a primer for psychologists working with transgender clients. Finally, supervisors in all placements and rotations strive to address patient diversity issues in their regular supervision sessions.

**Program Goals:**

- Interns will develop competence with assessing and diagnosing mental health disorders that appear in the Veteran population.
- Interns will develop competence in providing psychological interventions to adults with a range of diagnoses. Trainees will be exposed to a range of therapeutic orientations and techniques with an emphasis on empirically supported modalities.
- Interns will display an understanding and appreciation of ethnic, cultural, gender, and sexual diversity.
- Interns will develop into culturally-competent practitioners of psychology by exploring their own assumptions, values and biases; seeking to understand the worldview of the culturally-different client; and learning the necessary skills to provide culturally appropriate interventions and techniques.
- Interns will develop competence in conducting psychological evaluation and assessment of Veterans with a variety of diagnostic concerns. An emphasis is placed on developing competence in diagnostic interviewing and administration/interpretation of psychometrically-validated instruments assessing personality and cognitive abilities.
- Interns will develop competence with crisis intervention and the assessment of suicidal/homicidal ideation and behaviors.
- Interns will develop competence in providing effective consultation, feedback, and translation of psychological principles to colleagues, other disciplines, patients, and families.
- Interns will develop personal characteristics and professional behavior consistent with professional standards and ethical guidelines. They will learn how to build and utilize interprofessional relationships.
- Interns will develop the ability to utilize supervision well and how to incorporate feedback into their practice. They will learn VA policies and how to administer clinical treatment within the VA system.
- Interns will develop competence with the ethical and legal practice of clinical psychology.

**Required Activities**

15-20 hours of face-to-face clinical work (assessment and psychotherapy), including at least 8-10 hours of individual or couples therapy per week is the typical weekly expectation. This should be considered an average, and an intern can have assessment heavy periods (e.g., during Neuropsychology rotation) in which an intern will have fewer hours than this requirement. It is expected that the intern will have more therapy-intensive training activities during the rest of internship.

**Weekly Schedule**

The weekly schedule involves working on two different rotations and within the general MH clinic. These rotations and clinics are located at the main hospital, or at our Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC). Interns will be placed at particular CBOC according to what rotation they are completing, as some rotations are located at specific CBOCs. Seminars/Didactics occur on Friday mornings in Building 24 at the Main Campus from 8:00 am - 10:00 am. There is a rotating schedule of seminar topics, focusing upon different clinical areas, Veteran needs and professional development. From 10:00 am to 12:00 am, group supervision will be provided by the Internship Directors. Interns are provided time to have lunch together for professional socialization and to discuss their experiences from 12:00 am - 1:00 pm. From 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm, interns are

given “flex time” to complete administrative duties, individual supervision, and/or provide more clinical care in their rotations.

### **Supervision**

Clinical supervision is the primary vehicle for experiential learning and feedback during internship. Interns will receive 5 hours of supervision most weeks (1 hour on each rotation/placement and 2 hours of group supervision). Your supervisors will monitor your work through a number of methods, including case discussions, review of all clinical documentation, live supervision, and cotherapy. At the beginning of each supervisory relationship, you and your supervisor will discuss goals, training activities, and expectations for your supervisory experience. You and your supervisor will also discuss the process by which emergency supervision can be obtained when needed, including coverage during supervisor absences.

### **Intern Evaluation**

Interns are evaluated at the beginning of the training year for areas of training need and interest. They are also provided copies of all of the evaluation forms. Throughout the year, evaluation and feedback occurs through the supervisory process to aid the intern in developing the program’s competencies. The Internship Training Committee meets once a month and discusses each intern's progress. A written midpoint evaluation is completed halfway through each training experience in order to identify any training adjustments needed for successful completion. This process allows for analysis of performance across all supervisors and training experiences. The intern provides input regarding her/his assessment of performance during this process and receives formal written feedback.

### **Intern Feedback**

Interns are encouraged to provide feedback about the program through multiple formats. The Internship Director and Internship Assistant Director meet with the interns as a group weekly during seminar time to discuss training issues. Other meetings with the Internship Directors are called as needed. Interns provide written feedback at the end of each rotation to their supervisors. They are encouraged to provide feedback to their clinical supervisors and the Internship Directors as issues and concerns are raised. At the end of each seminar session, the interns provide feedback to the presenters. The interns are asked to complete a feedback questionnaire and meet with the Internship Directors at the end of the year for suggested improvements. Program graduates are surveyed annually for suggestions for improvement.

### **Additional Training and Didactics**

All interns will have the opportunity to undergo the VA Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Training in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) during the internship year. Interns who pursue this training will receive ongoing consultation by a CPT-certified therapist and will receive CPT certification by the completion of their training. In addition, all interns will attend weekly didactics that address a variety of topics in Clinical Psychology. These topics include Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk, Psychopharmacology, Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Pain Psychology Primer, Traumatic Brain Injury, Motivational Interviewing, Geropsychology, and many more.

### **CLINICAL ROTATIONS:**

#### **Outpatient General Mental Health-required one year placement**

General mental health services (MH) are offered at all CBOCs of the Robley Rex VAMC. The internship offers the MH placement training at several of these sites: Stonybrook, Newburg, Shively and Fort Knox. Training and experience in outpatient services serves to enhance the intern's working knowledge of individual, group, and marital psychotherapy. The intern will receive training and be expected to provide evidenced based psychotherapy such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Problem-Solving Therapy and Acceptance and

Commitment Therapy, etc. Interns develop preliminary competence in conceptualizing and conducting independent psychological evaluations, and in effectively communicating findings to referral sources.

#### **Compensation and Pension – Minor Rotation**

The Compensation and Pension (C&P) rotation offers psychology interns the opportunity to conduct forensic evaluations associated with the Department of Veterans Affairs disability claims process. C&P evaluations typically require the psychologist to (1) determine if a Veteran currently meets DSM-5 criteria for a claimed mental disorder, (2) document the impact that the diagnosed mental disorder has on the Veteran's occupational and social functioning, and (3) provide an expert statement on the relationship between a Veteran's claimed mental disorder and his or her military service. In this rotation, interns will perform medico-legal examinations under the close supervision of a licensed psychologist, learn to evaluate evidence from medical records and collateral testimony, and learn to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence to support legal opinions. At the beginning of the rotation, interns will complete online Compensation and Pension Examination Program (CPEP) certification courses. At the conclusion of this rotation, interns will demonstrate an understanding of the differences between the forensic and clinical approach to examinations, a working knowledge of relevant legal statutes that guide the VA's Compensation and Pension system, competence in using both structured and unstructured clinical interviewing, proficiency with differential diagnoses using DSM-5 criteria, and competence in administering and interpreting symptom validity tests and other psychological measures. Interns will gain a deeper understanding of the role that the C&P process plays in the lives of many Veterans, not only in the distribution of financial benefits and medical care, but also in its relationship to Veterans' own sense of meaning and identity related to their military service.

#### **Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (HPDP) – Minor Rotation**

HPDP is a primary care prevention program engaged in facility level environmental and policy action, support of clinical care through staff training and consultation, outcome research, quality improvement, and organizational alignment, and provision of direct clinical services utilizing evidence-based protocols in health psychology. This program is designed to increase awareness of 9 healthy living messages among VAMC staff and patients, with the primary goals of engaging veterans in their own health, ideally prior to the development of chronic diseases.

The clinical services provided through HPDP are all health psychology programming and the internship rotation will focus specifically on smoking cessation as chronic disease management and prevention. Learning and practicing Motivational Interview skills is integral to the clinical services provided. Interns will engage in outreach via telephone with veteran who have expressed possible interest in quitting tobacco. Interns will provide ongoing group and individual health coaching via video telehealth for tobacco cessation.

The position will also expose the student to organizational & health psychology, through development of health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. These include training medical clinicians in motivational interviewing, developing wellness initiatives, and supporting primary care administration and other health/wellness programs. The rotation focuses heavily on networking with interdisciplinary professionals in the medical field.

#### **Geriatric & Extended Care (GEC) Service – Major Rotation**

A rotation in the GEC service provides a unique training experience as interns will have an opportunity to train with licensed psychologists (currently five) specialized in addressing psychological concerns of older Veterans, their families and caregivers. Psychology interns will participate in a truly interdisciplinary training model in a service with diverse trainees including medicine fellows, residents and students as well as physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, nutrition, recreational therapy, social work and mid-level practitioners. In this setting, individuals grow to understand the dynamics of effective team collaboration. In

Home Based Primary Care (HBPC), interns will collaborate with full interdisciplinary teams in providing care to frail, elderly Veterans within the home environment. Interns will have the opportunity to accompany psychologists as they conduct initial assessments and interventions with HBPC patients.

In Hospice and Palliative Care (HPC), interns will gain experience as a consultant to medical providers of Veterans with a variety of life-limiting illnesses. HPC is a fast-paced service necessitating quick processing of information, flexibility, and efficient communication with Veterans, families and health care personnel. Interdisciplinary HPC teams focus on quality of life improvement through recommendations to medical providers. Common psychological concerns include depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and cognitive functioning. Consultations are completed via inpatient settings (at the 110bed acute care floors and/or ER) or through the Outpatient Palliative Medicine Clinics (located in Oncology, Pods D and C, and/or in the community). Interns will have an opportunity to gain experience with psychologists as they complete HPC consults. Interns will also participate in daily multidisciplinary Palliative Care and Hospice rounds. Lastly, Interns will be able to gain experience with Veterans and families on the inpatient Hospice Unit.

GEC offers interns potential additional outpatient experiences including Memory Clinic and Pain Clinic. The Memory Clinic is focused on Veterans with mild and major neurocognitive disorders. Psychologists conduct cognitive assessments to establish an initial diagnosis and/or confirm previously established diagnoses. Reassessments are conducted to stage disease progression. Interns will have an opportunity to gain experience with assessment and report write-up as well as collaboration with medical provider(s). The Pain Clinic provides assessment and interventions for Veterans with chronic pain. Interns will have the opportunity to work with a psychologist in assessment and treatment planning as well as providing interventions and psychoeducation for Veterans seen in the pain clinic.

#### **Neuropsychology – Major and Minor Rotations**

The neuropsychology assessment consultation service receives referrals for evaluation from medical and mental health providers throughout the medical center, with most consults coming from primary care, neurology, mental health service, and polytrauma. Thus, Veterans of all age groups, with a wide variety of neurologic, general medical, and mental health conditions are evaluated by the service. Common presentations include dementia, movement disorders, cerebrovascular accidents, mental health conditions, mild traumatic brain injury, and substance use disorders. Interns choosing this rotation can select either a major rotation (2 day/week commitment for 6 months), or a minor rotation (1 day/week commitment for 6 months). The internship rotation provides interns the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of neuropsychological assessment, and gain experience with providing patient and family education and feedback. Interns will become familiar with the unique presentations of different neurocognitive disorders, and proficient at identifying the appropriate instruments to clarify diagnosis and functioning levels. Focused attention will be made on learning accurate administration, scoring and interpretation of neuropsychological measures, particularly for those with little to no neuropsychology experience. Additionally, interns will be trained in completing focused record review and diagnostic clinical interviews of individuals presenting for assessment, as well as their accompanying family members. Developing report writing skills for communication with interdisciplinary staff will be carefully trained. When trainee interest and scheduling permits, a neuropsychology didactic is held one a month, with staff neuropsychologists, interns, and practicum students participating through presentation of topics, articles and case studies. In this rotation, interns will receive close supervision of each case they complete, with growing autonomy as skills are demonstrated.

#### **Primary Care Mental Health Integration – Major Rotation**

A rotation with the Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) team allows interns the opportunity to become an integrated member of a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT), within the VA's primary care medical setting. The intern will attend team huddles, collaborate with same-day warm handoffs, and consult with

PACT team members on patient treatment planning. They will provide brief therapy services, health behavior change coaching, mental health triage and crisis intervention. Interns will learn to integrate care management services into the primary care setting and will work with Veterans with a wide variety of presenting mental health issues and behavioral health topics including medication adherence, depression, substance use, chronic pain, and sleep disorders. They will train with our Health Behavior Coordinator to deliver evidence-based Smoking Cessation services and will collaborate with a wide variety of multidisciplinary providers, including primary care physicians, a team pharmacist and a team nutritionist.

#### **Psychological Assessment – Minor Rotation**

The psychological assessment consultation service receives referrals for evaluation from medical and mental health providers throughout the medical center, with most consults coming from primary care and mental health. Thus, Veterans of all age groups, with a wide variety of mental health conditions, and often co-occurring medical conditions, are evaluated by the service. Common referral questions include clarification of differential diagnosis, and assessments for ADHD and learning disorders. Although less frequent, pre-surgical evaluations are also requested for organ transplant (e.g., kidney, liver), stem cell transplant, spinal cord stimulator placement, and bariatric surgery candidates. The internship rotation provides interns the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of psychological assessment and gain experience with providing patient and family education and feedback. Interns will become proficient at conducting a thorough chart review, obtaining information through clinical interview, and selecting the appropriate instruments to clarify diagnosis (e.g., PAI, MMPI, WAIS-IV, WIAT-III). ADHD referrals may require additional neurocognitive testing, and the intern can learn/observe administration of these instruments as desired. Developing report writing skills for communication with interdisciplinary staff will be carefully trained. Interns will have the opportunity to provide patient feedback with the neuropsychologist, with increased autonomy as skills are demonstrated. Interns will receive close supervision of each case they complete. This rotation is only available as a minor (1 day/week commitment for 6 months).

#### **PTSD Clinical Team – Major Rotation**

The Post Traumatic Clinical Team, located at the Stonybrook clinic, provides comprehensive, patient-centered care that emphasizes human dignity and individual strengths and differences. Specializing in the use of evidence-based treatments to reduce symptoms of PTSD, training with this team provides a thorough understanding of trauma care to include assessment/diagnosis, individual, group, and marital/family psychotherapy, medication management, and coordination with the referring clinician/team. Interns will participate in a collaborative treatment planning process with Veterans that recognizes them as educated consumers and ensures treatment plans reflect individual Veteran's preferences, needs, and values. Interns will be fully integrated in an inter-disciplinary team that includes psychiatry, psychology, social work, peer support specialists and chaplaincy. Interns will work under the mentorship of a psychologist trained in Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Motivational Interviewing and Integrated Behavioral Couples Therapy. In addition, interns will be credentialed in and receive consultation for Cognitive Processing Therapy. Interns will facilitate groups with the multiple specialties on the team to ensure broad understanding of interdisciplinary care of traumatic reactions. Interns on this rotation will also learn the intricacies of providing telemental health treatments to rural community based clinics and Veteran's homes.

#### **Substance Use Disorders Treatment Program – Major and Minor Rotations**

The Robley Rex VAMC Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program (SUDTP) consists of the Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment Clinic (SATC), an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), and the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP). Interns on this rotation will be a part of an interdisciplinary treatment team, consisting of psychiatrists, resident fellows, psychologists, a recreation therapist, social workers, nurses and addiction therapists. Interns will have an intensive training experience in the identification, assessment and evidence-based treatment of substance abuse. Interns may also conduct

psychological assessments, participate in daily rounds and participate in treatment team meetings. Interns will lead or co-lead a variety of both educational and process-oriented groups, in one or more of our three levels of care (SATC, IOP, or the SAR RTP). During this rotation interns will gain experience with Cognitive Behavioral Coping Skills Training, Assertiveness Training, Motivational Interviewing and Enhancement, Relapse Prevention, Interpersonal Process, and Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention.

#### **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

##### **Mentoring**

Mentoring is available to psychology interns as an informal way to enhance the soft skills of professional development. Mentors are selected in a tailored manner with the intern's input about areas with which they would like support. The mentor does not provide formal supervision on clinical work, or complete any evaluations of the intern. Their relationship would be flexible, based on the needs of the intern, acting as a role model, offering support & connections. This allows the intern to explore topics of professional expertise, or personal development in their future as an early career psychologist. With this enhanced care in the journey toward their career path, interns would be able to envision ways to seek collegial consultation once they move beyond the internship year.

##### **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Allies Program**

LGBT Allies is a network of local VA employees from various services/clinics who have stepped forward as supporters of the VA's mission to provide individualized, affirming, and exceptional care to our LGBTQ+ Veteran population. Allies serve as "point people" within their services/clinics when a Veteran has a need or question specific to their area of practice or expertise and provide tailored services to this Veteran population. A couple of examples are Allies in endocrinology who have special expertise in HRT and Allies in mental health who have been trained to perform "readiness" evaluations of Veterans seeking gender-affirming procedures. Psychology interns may have an opportunity to shadow a readiness evaluation process if the opportunity arises. Allies receive updated information on care and access developments and are kept abreast of opportunities to participate in outreach.

##### **Multicultural Issues in Psychology Journal Club**

This discussion group is held on the first Friday of each month, during the intern flex time. During the meetings, attendees discuss an article or book chapter in the area of Multicultural Psychology that has been selected beforehand by one of the members of the journal club. The purpose of the journal club are the following: 1) to improve participants' understanding of how their values and biases may influence a range of clinical decisions (diagnosis, case conceptualizations, treatment approach, interactions with patients, etc.) as well as supervisory encounters with psychology students; 2) to improve participants' understanding of how their patients' various identities and cultural backgrounds may affect their access to care, treatment engagement, and experience of the healthcare process; and 3) to expose psychology interns to the numerous ways that professional psychologists can promote equity, human rights, and social justice in the communities they serve.

##### **Psychology/Neuropsychology Case Conference and Journal Club**

This didactic is held the third Friday of each month during the intern flex time. Each month, one attendee informally presents on a case(s) and a journal article that has been chosen to accompany the topic. Cases can involve general differential psychological assessment or neuropsychological assessment. Interns and practicum students are expected to present once during the year, with assistance from their supervisor, as needed. Staff and supervisors also present, and often there is an education component on classic presentation of diseases and disorders, or particularly interesting, unusual, or difficult differentials.



# ***Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data***

## **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TABLES**

**Date Program Tables are updated: March 2, 2021**

### **Internship Program Admissions**

This is a full-time, 2000 hour predoctoral psychology internship. Our independent training program focuses on breadth of clinical skills, while highlighting comprehensive mental health care. This includes a focus on knowledge and consideration of research guiding clinical practice (practitioner-scholar model). Emphasis is placed on utilization of empirically supported treatments. Training consists of 15-20 hours of face-to-face clinical work (assessment and psychotherapy), including at least 8-10 hours of individual or couples therapy per week is the typical weekly expectation. This should be considered an average, and an intern can have assessment heavy periods (e.g., during Neuropsychology rotation) in which an intern will have fewer hours than this requirement. It is expected that the intern will have more therapy-intensive training activities during the rest of internship. We also emphasize sensitivity to individual differences and diversity, and value attracting a diverse group of interns. All things being equal, consideration is given to applicants representing elements of diversity, including, but not limited to, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, social economic status, and military service.

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:

Total Direct Contact	Yes
Intervention Hours	300

Total Direct Contact	Yes
Assessment Hours	150

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants: Please see eligibility requirements listed below.

### **Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year\***

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	\$26,297
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	N/A
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	Yes
If access to medical insurance is provided	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	104

Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	104
In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?	Yes
Other Benefits (please describe)	

Interns receive eleven paid federal holidays. Additionally, interns are offered full health and life insurance benefits, including optional dental and vision insurance.

### Initial Post-Internship Positions

2018-2020

Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts		12
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because		
they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree		0
	PD	EP
Community mental health center	0	0
Federally qualified health center	0	0
Independent primary care facility/clinic	0	0
University counseling center	1	0
Veterans Affairs medical center	2	2
Military health center	0	0
Academic health center	0	0
Other medical center or hospital	0	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	0
Academic university/department	0	0
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0

Correctional facility	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	1	3
Not currently employed	0	0
Changed to another field	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	0	0

Note: “PD” = Post-doctoral residency position; “EP” = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table should be counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that represents their primary position.

## ***Application & Selection Procedures***

### **Eligibility for VA Employment:**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adheres to all Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies. As a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Professions Trainee (HPT), you will receive a Federal appointment, and the following requirements will apply prior to that appointment

1. **U.S. Citizenship.** HPTs who receive a direct stipend (pay) must be U.S. citizens. Trainees who are not VA paid (without compensation-WOC) who are not U.S. citizens may be appointed and must provide current immigrant, non-immigrant or exchange visitor documents.
2. **U.S. Social Security Number.** All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.
3. **Selective Service Registration.** Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit <https://www.sss.gov/>. Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waivers are rare and requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the VA Office of Human Resources Management. This process can take up to six months for a verdict.
4. **Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation.** All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required background checks can be found at the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.

5. **Drug Testing.** Per Executive Order 12564, the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice. See item 8 below.
6. **Affiliation Agreement.** To ensure shared responsibility between an academic program and the VA there must be a current and fully executed Academic Affiliation Agreement on file with the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). The affiliation agreement delineates the duties of VA and the affiliated institution. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs have an agreement on file. More information about this document can be found at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp> (see section on psychology internships). Post-degree programs typically will not have an affiliation agreement, as the HPT is no longer enrolled in an academic program and the program is VA sponsored.
7. **TQCVL.** To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at the Affiliate must complete and sign this letter. For post-graduate programs where an affiliate is not the program sponsor, this process must be completed by the VA Training Director. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp>
  - a. **Health Requirements.** Among other things, the TQCVL confirms that you, the trainee, are fit to perform the essential functions (physical and mental) of the training program and immunized following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and VHA policy. This protects you, other employees and patients while working in a healthcare facility. Required are annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B vaccine as well as annual influenza vaccine. *Declinations are EXTREMELY rare.* If you decline the flu vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA.
  - b. **Primary source verification of all prior education and training** is certified via the TQCVL. Training and Program Directors will be contacting the appropriate institutions to ensure you have the appropriate qualifications and credentials as required by the admission criteria of the training program in which you are enrolled.
8. **Additional On-boarding Forms.** Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and others are available online for review at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.
9. **Proof of Identity per VA.** VA on-boarding requires presentation of two source documents (IDs). Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: <https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv/media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf>

Additional information regarding eligibility requirements for appointment as a psychology HPT can be found at the end of this brochure.

#### **Additional information regarding eligibility requirements (with hyperlinks)**

- Trainees receive term employee appointments and must meet eligibility requirements for appointment as outlined in VA Handbook 5005 Staffing, Part II, Section B. Appointment Requirements and Determinations. [https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub\\_ID=646&FType=2](https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=646&FType=2)

- Selective Service website where the requirements, benefits and penalties of registering vs. not registering are outlined: <https://www.sss.gov/Registration/Why-Register/Benefits-and-Penalties>

**Additional information specific suitability information from Title 5 (referenced in VHA Handbook 5005 – hyperlinks included):**

**(b) Specific factors.** In determining whether a person is suitable for Federal employment, only the following factors will be considered a basis for finding a person unsuitable and taking a suitability action:

- (1) Misconduct or negligence in employment;
- (2) Criminal or dishonest conduct;
- (3) Material, intentional false statement, or deception or fraud in examination or appointment;
- (4) Refusal to furnish testimony as required by § 5.4 of this chapter;
- (5) Alcohol abuse, without evidence of substantial rehabilitation, of a nature and duration that suggests that the applicant or appointee would be prevented from performing the duties of the position in question, or would constitute a direct threat to the property or safety of the applicant or appointee or others;
- (6) Illegal use of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances without evidence of substantial rehabilitation;
- (7) Knowing and willful engagement in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. Government by force; and
- (8) Any statutory or regulatory bar which prevents the lawful employment of the person involved in the position in question.

**(c) Additional considerations.** OPM and agencies must consider any of the following additional considerations to the extent OPM or the relevant agency, in its sole discretion, deems any of them pertinent to the individual case:

- (1) The nature of the position for which the person is applying or in which the person is employed;
- (2) The nature and seriousness of the conduct;
- (3) The circumstances surrounding the conduct;
- (4) The recency of the conduct;
- (5) The age of the person involved at the time of the conduct;
- (6) Contributing societal conditions; and
- (7) The absence or presence of rehabilitation or efforts toward rehabilitation.

### **Eligibility for Application to Internship Program:**

1. Doctoral student in good standing at an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined psychology or Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) accredited program in Clinical Science. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the

APA or CPA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology are also eligible.

2. Written verification by the Training Director of the doctoral program that the individual is approved for internship status by the Department.
3. All coursework must be completed prior to beginning the Internship.
4. United States Citizenship.

The Louisville Robley Rex VAMC Pre-doctoral Internship is participating in the APPIC Uniform Application Process. You may access the online application from the internet ([www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org)). Your Training Director will need to complete the online Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness form.